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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Follow-up to recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit

Report by the Secretariat

Reports on progress to develop a system of follow-up to JIU recommendations, as requested by the Board in decision IDB.22/Dec.7.

Introduction

1. Board decision IDB.22/Dec.7, paragraph (c), "Encouraged the UNIDO Secretariat to continue its dialogue with the Joint Inspection Unit with a view to developing a system of follow-up to Joint Inspection Unit recommendations in full consultation with all Member States and in due time, and to report thereon to the Industrial Development Board at its twenty-third session." In compliance with that decision, a pilot scheme is currently under discussion by the UNIDO Secretariat and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) that could be implemented within available resources.

2. The scheme takes into account relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 50/233, which established the principle that the impact of the Unit on the cost-effectiveness of activities within the United Nations system is a shared responsibility of the Member States, the Unit and the secretariats of the participating organizations. In addition, resolution 54/16, adopted on 29 October 1999, endorsed the system of follow-up to the JIU reports contained in annex I to document A/52/34 and requested that the system be implemented expeditiously. [1]

3. In developing a follow-up scheme for UNIDO, constraints are encountered both at the level of the governing bodies and within the Secretariat, as summarized in the following paragraphs. The present document constitutes an interim progress report, as the Secretariat continues its dialogue with the JIU to implement decision IDB.22/Dec.7 in line with the requirements stipulated by the General Assembly.

I. LEGISLATIVE ORGANS

4. Involvement of legislative organs in the system of follow-up as endorsed by the General Assembly is

[1] Copies of General Assembly resolutions 50/233 and 54/16 and of annex I to document A/52/34 are available from Documents Distribution (telephone 26060-3240), or at the Documents Distribution counter outside the Board Room during the session.

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covered in paragraphs 11, 12 and 23 of annex I to document A/52/34, as follows:

> 11. "With the assistance of the executive heads, the legislative organs should plan their work programmes so that sufficient time is allocated to allow for active and serious consideration of the relevant JIU reports.
>
> 12. "The legislative organs should take concrete action on each recommendation of a JIU report under consideration, as called for in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 50/233, rather than just taking note of the report as a whole. This is a necessary requirement for JIU reports to have impact, in view of article 5, paragraph 5, of the JIU statute, which provides that the Inspectors of the Unit may make recommendations but have no power of decision."
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> 23. "In accordance with article 12 of the JIU statute, the legislative organs should systematically verify the implementation of approved recommendations and request the Unit to issue follow-up reports as they deem appropriate."

5. In UNIDO, these procedures would apply to the Industrial Development Board, which is the policy-making organ that considers JIU recommendations. In its consideration of the procedures, the Board may wish to take into account a number of relevant aspects, including relative priority of agenda items for respective sessions and the feasibility of holding slightly longer sessions to accommodate the active and serious consideration of the reports.

II. SECRETARIAT

6. At the level of the Secretariat, resource constraints must be considered in connection with a number of the procedures called for by the General Assembly. For example, paragraph 6 of annex I to document A/52/34 calls for the executive heads to distribute JIU reports immediately, with or without their comments to the Member States of their organizations. The Secretariat proposes to comply with this requirement by distributing informally to the Permanent Missions accredited to UNIDO those reports of relevance to UNIDO, attached to an information note—an approach that would require only very limited staff time and minor printing costs. Should reports be distributed to Ministries in capitals, the procedure would be more labour-intensive, possibly entailing costly translations and duplication of work if other organizations are also to distribute copies of JIU reports.

7. Paragraphs 19-22 of annex I to document A/52/34 refer to action to be taken by the Secretariat following the consideration by the legislative organs of JIU recommendations. The principle mechanism is a chart (matrix) for follow-up action in respect of each report considered by the legislative bodies. The matrix would indicate:

(a) Recommendation;

(b) Unit responsible for implementation;

(c) Official in charge of implementation;

(d) Timetable for implementation;

(e) Initial impact of implementation.

The completed chart would be sent to JIU and to the Bureau of the Industrial Development Board and would serve as the basis for regular reporting to the Board on follow-up to recommendations.

8. Requirements in terms of staff time for maintaining the follow-up system described in annex I to document A/52/34 would depend on a number of considerations, including: (a) the number of reports considered by the Board; (b) whether the Secretariat distributes all JIU reports or only those of relevance to UNIDO; (c) whether JIU reports are distributed by the Secretariat to Permanent Missions (informal procedure) or to Ministries of Foreign Affairs of all Member States (formal procedure).

III. ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION

9. As stated in paragraph 1 above, a pilot scheme is currently under discussion with JIU. In consideration of the implications for the work of the Board and in terms of resources, the Secretariat would require the guidance of the Board before finalizing the pilot scheme. In particular, guidance would have to be provided concerning the following tasks, all of which are addressed in the preceding paragraphs:

	Ref. paragraph A/52/34
Distribution by UNIDO of JIU reports to Member States	6
(a) To Ministries of Foreign Affairs of all 168 Member States, or to Permanent Missions accredited to UNIDO (135 Member States)?	
(b) All JIU reports to be distributed, or only those reports considered by the Director-General to be of sufficient relevance to UNIDO?	

	Ref. paragraph A/52/34
Industrial Development Board	
(c) The Board should plan its work programmes so that sufficient time is allocated to allow for active and serious consideration of the relevant JIU reports.	11
(d) The Board should take concrete action on each recommendation of a JIU report under consideration, rather than just taking note of the report as a whole.	12
(e) The Board should systematically verify the implementation of approved recommendations.	23

IV. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

10. The Board is invited to provide guidance on the system of follow-up to JIU recommendations, particularly on points (a) to (e) in paragraph 9 of the present document.